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Appln. No.: TO BE ASSIGNED  
Preliminary Amendment Dated: June 10, 2005

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**Amendments to the Claims:** This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A spoke for wheels ~~comprising including~~ a shaft having opposed longitudinal ends, on at least one of which ~~the ends~~ a terminal element is provided for carrying a device for the attachment of the spoke to the ~~a~~ respective wheel component, the device is fitted by ~~means of~~ fixing means, characterized in that the fixing means comprise a stud-bolt-type threaded connection between the shaft and the terminal element.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The spoke according to Claim 1 in which the stud-bolt-type connection comprises an axial hole in the end of the shaft and a thread on the terminal element, the coupling between the hole and the thread being of the threaded or self-tapping type.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The spoke according to Claim 1 ~~or Claim 2~~ in which the shaft is made of a material having a mechanical strength less than that of the material of which the terminal element is made.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The spoke according to Claim ~~3~~ 2 in which the shaft is made of light alloy.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The spoke according to Claim ~~3~~ 2 in which the terminal element is made of steel.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The spoke according to Claim 2 ~~one or more of the preceding claims~~ in which the self-tapping thread is formed with a conical profile.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The spoke according to Claim 1 ~~one or more of the preceding claims~~ in which a driving key is provided in an intermediate portion of the terminal element, for the driving of the terminal element into the shaft.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The spoke according to Claim 1 ~~one or more of the preceding claims~~ in which the terminal element is driven into the shaft with interference.

9. (Currently Amended) A ~~The~~ spoke according to Claim 1 ~~one or more of the preceding claims~~ in which the terminal element is provided, at the end remote from the shaft, with means for connection to a nipple.

10. (Currently Amended) A ~~The~~ spoke according to Claim 1 ~~one or more of the preceding claims~~ in which the terminal element is provided, at the end remote from the shaft, with means for connection to a wheel hub.

11. (Currently Amended) A ~~The~~ spoke according to Claim 9 in which the connection means comprise a threaded portion of the terminal element.

12. (Currently Amended) A ~~The~~ spoke according to Claim 10 in which the means for connection to a hub comprise an attachment element.

13. (Currently Amended) A ~~The~~ spoke according to Claim 2 ~~one or more of the preceding claims~~ in which the hole in the shaft is blind and has a greater ~~extent~~ length than the threaded portion of the terminal element which is engaged therein, so as to define a chamber in the hole.

14. (Currently Amended) A ~~The~~ spoke according to Claim 13 in which the axial ~~extent~~ length of the chamber is greater than or equal to one third of the overall axial ~~extent~~ length of the blind hole.

15. (Currently Amended) A method for the manufacture of a wheel spoke comprising the steps of preparing a shaft and separately preparing at least one terminal element to be arranged as an extension of the shaft, the shaft being made of a material having a mechanical strength less than that of the material with which the terminal element is made, ~~characterized in that~~ and fitting the terminal element ~~is fitted on the shaft by means of a stud-bolt-type connection,~~ thereby firmly fixing the shaft and the terminal together axially.

16. (Currently Amended) A ~~The~~ method according to Claim 15 in which the connection is forced with interference.

17. (Currently Amended) A ~~The~~ method according to Claim 15 ~~or Claim 16~~ in which the stud-bolt-type connection is performed with a self-tapping coupling.

18. (Original) A wheel spoke produced by press-forging of metal alloy and having a substantially Y-shaped configuration with two shanks at the same end, the shanks having respective threaded portions for the engagement of respective nipples.

19. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~The spoke according to Claim 18 including a central aperture of a shape corresponding to the external shape of the spoke itself.